

This is the first photograph exhibition displayed by the museum's Archives Area together with the "Colectivo Etnografías Chaco" research team from Facultad de Filosofía y Letras and the support of the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA, Copenhagen – Denmark). Most of the photographs displayed belong to the "Fondo Documental Enrique Palavecino", which was donated by his family in-law to the Photographic and Documentary Archive of the "Juan B. Ambrosetti" Ethnographic Museum (Facultad de Filosofía y Letras, UBA). The Archive's collection consists on written and visual documentation (photographic, iconographic and filmic) produced since the Museum's foundation in 1904: material related to the management of a university museum and to research of anthropological and archaeological nature. The Photographic and Documentary Archive is enacting a slow value enhancement process. At present, it is going through a consolidating period due to the patient work already done (physical and intellectual organizing, preserving and broadcasting of its contents) and the potential uses as an information center in its specialty through the future web site, being developed right now.



**Director**

Myriam N. Tarragó, Ph.D.

**Academic Secretary**

Andrea Pegoraro, Ph.D.

**Exhibitions**

Moreno 350

City of Buenos Aires

Open Tuesday to Friday, 1pm to 7pm;

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Closed on Mondays.

**Library**

Monday to Friday, 2pm to 8pm

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 Museo Etnografico J. B. Ambrosetti



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International  
Workgroup for  
Indigenous Affairs

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# *Through the lens: an encounter with indigenous peoples in Chaco*



## **Museo Etnográfico "Juan B. Ambrosetti"**

# Through the lens: an encounter with indigenous peoples in Chaco

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Photograph exhibition of Enrique Palavecino's fieldwork in Chaco. Palavecino (1900 – 1966) was the first Argentinian ethnographer to work with indigenous societies from Chaco.

Palavecino began his expeditions in 1927 and continued them throughout his life. Thanks to this, nowadays we have hundreds of images that record his work. His camera offers a lucid approach to the life of indigenous peoples from the "Great Chaco" such as Chané, Chiriguano, Tapiete, Pilagá, Toba/Qom and Wichí. These snapshots invite the viewer to experiment the joy of the encounter with the fellow man and the passion that the one behind the camera has to communicate his particular excitement about the world that reveals itself to him. Photography was an instrument that allowed the ethnographer to make visible his relationship with the others. These photos might be thought as places where these experiences concentrate. Parting from a set of portraits, we trace a path through a series of images that were the material result of Palavecino's fieldwork during 1927

and 1949 around the "Great Chaco". These images come to us as fragments of the everyday life for the Chaco indigenous peoples, besides displaying some of the breakdown processes of its traditional life such as the evangelization process and the work on sugar plantations. In the 1930's there were exhibitions that displayed these groups: this exotic perspective on them is also included. There are some current photographs displayed as well. A series of audiovisuals from various sources such as original film records taken by Palavecino, a visit to the Ethnographic Museum by current members of these indigenous communities and documentaries from the "Pueblos Originarios" collection produced by "Canal Encuentro", make this a more comprehensive exhibition.



**Cover and illustrations:** Selection belonging to the Fondo Documental de Enrique Palavecino (Archivo Fotográfico y Documental del Museo Etnográfico "Juan B. Ambrosetti")

## "Through the lens"

### Curatorship

Morita Carrasco, Julia Costilla, Dolores Estruch y Verónica Hopp (Colectivo Etnografías Chaco). Vivian Spoliansky y Marisa Scarafoni (Archivo del Museo Etnográfico)

### Photographic Selection and Edition

Pablo Lasansky

### Exhibition Design

Patricio López Mendez

### Graphic Design

Jorge Armendáriz

### Museography and Montage

Verónica Jeria

### Montage

Agustín Maidana, Marcelo Rivadeneira, Juan Sosa, Natalia Efron, Silvana Di Lorenzo, Mariana Barrenechea, Alejandra Reynoso y Lucila Pesoa

### Photographic Digitalization and Edition

Natalia Efron y Soledad Zeballos Beltrán

### Collaborators

Najuaj Mendoza, Marcos Lucas, Roque Miranda y Rogelio Segundo (miembros de comunidades indígenas del Gran Chaco); Marta Dujovne, Verónica Stáffora, Yolanda Velo, Alicia Kurc, Julia Olivares, Micaela Pereira, Yanina Soba (Museo Etnográfico); Pablo Rey, Ulises Rossel, Alejo Oliva, Christian Ostrosky; Museo del Cine "Pablo Ducros-Hicken", Paula Félix-Didier, Canal Encuentro; Ana Vivaldi, Ignacio Roca, Ana Laura Drigo y Ana María Spadafora (Colectivo Etnografías Chaco)

### Translations

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